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Brian W. Hameder

Name

Brian W. Hameder

Signature

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Jan F.A. SMITS	)
		)
SERIAL NO:	09/787,171	) Group Art Unit: 3764
		)
FILED:	March 14, 2001	) Examiner: Fenn C. Matthew
		)
TITLE:	HALLUX VALGUS BRACE	

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 20, 2004 and having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on April 20, 2004. Applicant submits the following responsive amendment in the above-identified application. Also submitted with this amendment is a Request for two-month Extension with the required fee, to extend the period of reply to June 20, 2004. Applicant believes this amendment places the application in better condition for allowance. Applicant's remarks are attached hereto and start on page 2.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the attached amended claims.